



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of  
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Section of Epidemiology

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April 25, 2018

Dear Superintendent or Principal:

This letter describes school tuberculosis (TB) screening requirements for students for the 2018-2019 school year as required by 7 AAC 27.213 "Tuberculosis Screening of School Children".

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended targeted TB testing of high-risk children for many years. Alaska's high rates of TB have historically prompted broad-based school screening. Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, the Alaska TB program piloted targeted TB testing in schools based on rates of TB in communities/school districts. Continued review of TB case rates by school districts/communities have prompted further expansion of TB risk based assessments to guide TB testing of students for the 2018-2019 school year. Norton Sound, Yukon-Kuskokwim and some Interior and Northern region school districts have historically all been high risk districts, requiring annual TB testing. However, recent TB case rate reviews indicate that many of these school districts may move to low risk. It is the district's and nonpublic school's responsibility to assess the TB status of each student within 90 days of enrollment.

A summary of testing requirements is below. Lists of school districts and communities by TB risk categories, the TB Risk Assessment questionnaire, reporting and other school screening information can be found on our webpage: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/tb.aspx>

District Risk Status	Annually Required Screening		Reporting
	Screening Methods	Students to be Screened	
High	Tuberculin skin testing (TST) or interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test	All students Kindergarten and higher	By December 15, 2018:  Submit survey monkey available on-line at: <a href="http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/tb.aspx">http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/tb.aspx</a>  Or fax to 563-7868
Low	<i>The Tuberculosis (TB) Risk Assessment for Alaska Students</i> questionnaire	All students <u>NEW to DISTRICT</u> in grade Pre-K and higher	
	Tuberculin skin testing (TST) or interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test	Any new students identified with risk factors from questionnaire above	

Please forward this information to all schools in your district as soon as possible to ensure that schools are aware of TB screening requirements for the 2018-2019 school year.

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Note that reports are due December 15, 2018. We will send electronic reminders prior to that date.

Please visit the Alaska TB Program webpage for additional information on school screening or contact our program at (907) 269-8000 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Donna Fearey, ANP

Acting State of Alaska TB Controller